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EULIMDANA RAUSCHORUM N. SP., A FILARIOID NEMATODE (LEMDANINAE) FROM *LARUS DOMINICANUS* IN ANTARCTICA, WITH COMMENTS ON EVOLUTION AND BIOGEOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT: *Eulimdana rauschorum* n. sp. is described from southern black-backed gulls, *Larus dominicanus* Lichtenstein in Antarctica. The species is most similar to *Eulimdana lari* (Yamaguti, 1935) from Charadriiformes in the Holarctic. Males have spicules equal in length that are asymmetric in structure distally. There are 4–5 and 3–5 caudal papillae in rows to the right and left of the anus, and 2 small genital papillae at the postero-lateral margin of the anus. Females have a variable number of prominent caudal papillae and large microfilariae (365 μ m in length). The morphological similarities and host distribution of *E. rauschorum* and *E. lari* suggest they are sister taxa in which cladogenesis of the former accompanied the isolation and subsequent speciation of *Larus dominicanus* in the Southern Hemisphere.

While conducting studies of parasite-host ecology among sympatric seabirds in the area of the Antarctic Peninsula, filarioid nematodes of the genus *Eulimdana* Founikoff, 1934, were collected from southern black-backed gulls, *Larus dominicanus* Lichtenstein. This is the second report of a filarioid nematode from Laridae in the Southern Hemisphere. Mawson (1969) partially described a female designated as *Eufilaria* sp. from *Larus novaehollandiae* Stephens in Australia. The present specimens from Antarctica appeared identical to that described by Mawson (1969) and were otherwise most similar to *Eulimdana lari* (Yamaguti, 1935) from Charadriiformes in the Holarctic. These relationships suggest the importance of ecological associations among marine birds, and coevolution with specific avian groups, in determining host and geographic distributions of these species of *Eulimdana* (see Bartlett and Anderson, 1980; Bartlett et al., 1985). In the present paper, *Eulimdana rauschorum* n. sp. is described based on specimens from *Larus dominicanus* in Antarctica.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Southern black-backed gulls and other species of seabirds were collected in the vicinity of the United States research base, Palmer Station, Anvers Island during the austral summer of 1982–1983. Birds were generally necropsied immediately following collection. Blood was collected, by heart puncture, from all species of charadriiforms. Smears were air-dried, fixed in absolute methanol, and stained with Wright's-Giemsa. Nematodes were fixed while alive in hot (~70 C) 10% formalin or 70% ethanol/5% glycerine and cleared in glycerine by

evaporation. Enface mounts were prepared in glycerine jelly. The following description is based on observations and measurements from a maximum of 25 male and 30 female nematodes. All measurements are expressed as length vs. width in micrometers unless stated otherwise; ranges of measurements are followed by mean values in parentheses and some sample sizes are given as (n =).

RESULTS

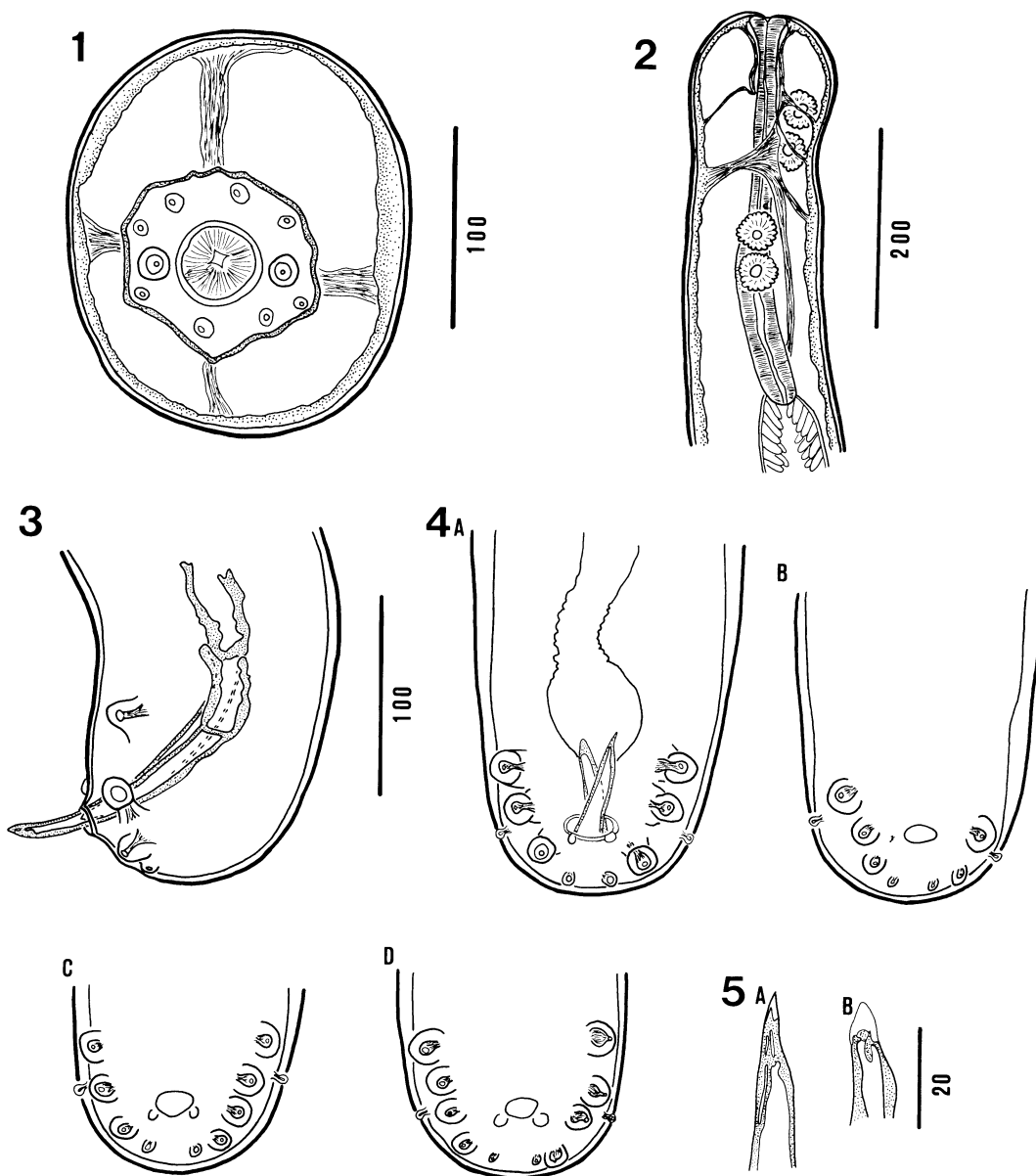
Nematodes were found in 9 of 21 adult gulls, but not in fledgling conspecifics or birds of 13 additional species including: *Catharacta lonnbergi* (Mathews), *Catharacta maccormicki* (Saunders), *Chionis alba* (Gmelin), *Sterna vittata* Gmelin, *Pygoscelis adeliae* (Hombron and Jacquinet), *Pygoscelis papua* (Forster), *Pygoscelis antarctica* (Forster), *Oceanites oceanicus* (Kuhl), *Fulmarus glacialis* (Smith), *Pagadroma nivea* (Forster), *Daption capense* (Linnaeus), *Macronectes giganteus* (Gmelin), and *Phalacrocorax atriceps* King (Hoberg, 1983). The nematodes, orange when alive, were found immediately beneath the skin, in areolar connective tissue. Parasites were generally localized in the gular region of infected gulls, although several were found in the cervical and occipital areas. No host reaction was noted. Microfilariae were not observed in blood-smears.

DESCRIPTION

***Eulimdana rauschorum* n. sp.**
(Figs. 1–10)

General: Body robust, bent slightly ventrad; with thick cuticle. Anterior and posterior extremities blunt, rounded. Cephalic region slightly expanded, bulbous, divided asymmetrically into small ventral and large dorsal lobe. Mouth simple without oral cuticular inflations; bordered by 2 large lateral amphids; surround-

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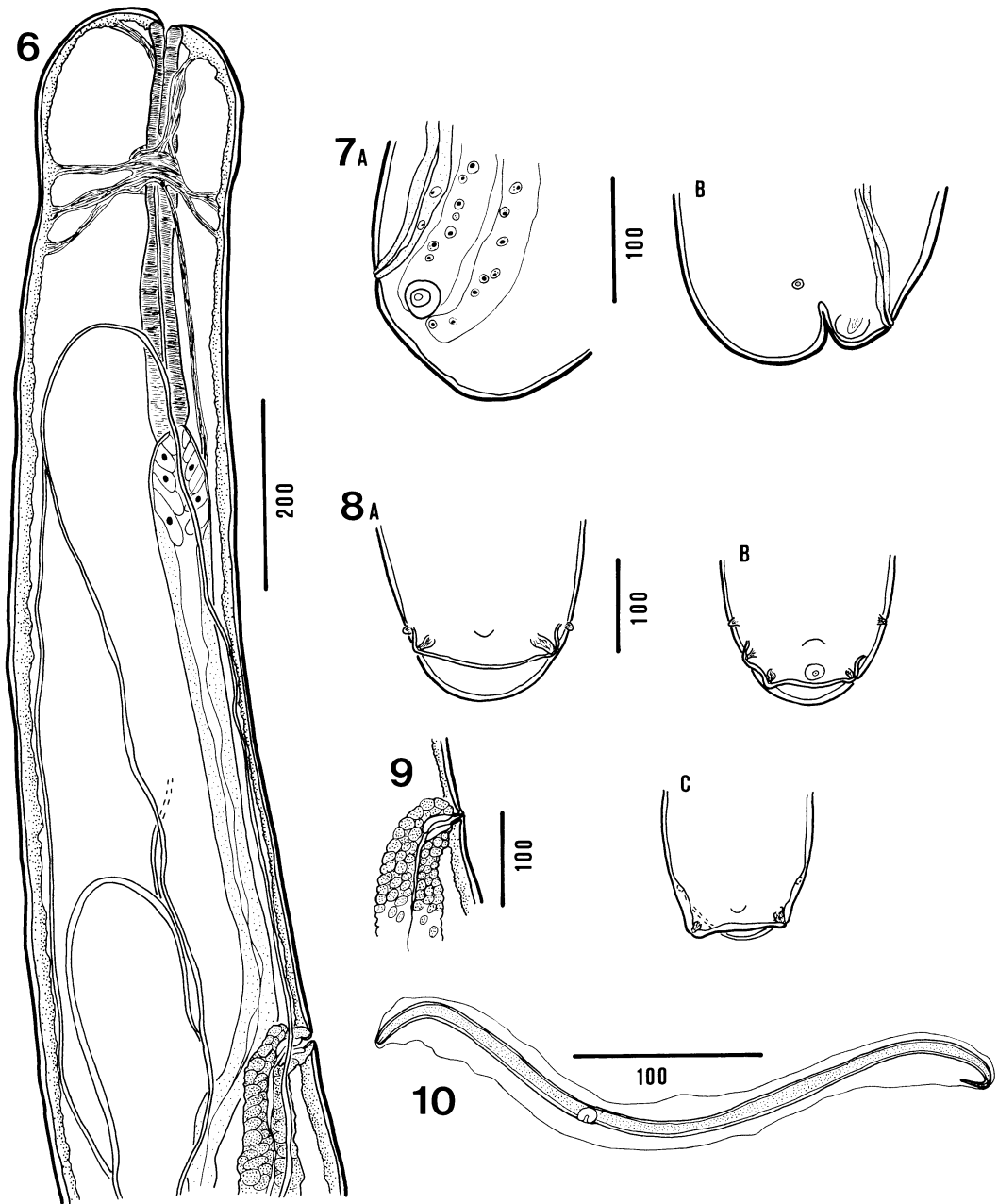


FIGURES 1-5. *Eulimdana rauschorum* n. sp. 1. Enface view, cephalic extremity of female, showing circumoral groove and papillae and lateral amphids. 2. Cephalic extremity of male, lateral view, showing prominent coelomocytes, esophagus and nerve ring. 3. Caudal extremity of male, lateral view, showing distribution of papillae and structure of spicules. 4A-D. Caudal extremity of male, ventral view, showing variation in number and distribution of anal and genital papillae (same scale as Fig. 3). 5A. Detail of tip of left spicule. 5B. Tip of right spicule.

ed by 4 pairs of small circumoral papillae distributed symmetrically in dorsal and ventral groups. Mouth and papillae surrounded by prominent circumoral groove. Cuticle with fine transverse striations. Irregular longitudinal thickenings of the cuticle sometimes evident.

Male: Length (n = 11) 3.5-5.8 mm (4.8). Width in

cephalic region 127-155; at midbody 200-269; in caudal region 96-120. Nerve ring (n = 15) 116-177 (143) from anterior extremity. Excretory pore not observed. Esophagus (n = 14) 354-470 (410) by 29-57 (38) at base; clearly demarcated from intestine; without appendix. Coelomocytes often prominent in esophageal



FIGURES 6–10. 6. Cephalic extremity of female, lateral view, showing relative position of nerve ring, ascending uterus, and vulva. 7A, B. Caudal extremity of female, lateral view, showing A) specimen with rounded tail, prominent longitudinal thickenings of cuticle, and large caudal papillae; B) specimen with posterior cleft. 8A–C. Caudal extremity of female, ventral view, showing variation in number and distribution of caudal papillae, and position of anus. 9. Vulva, lateral view. 10. Ensheathed microfilaria from vagina.

region. Anus subterminal, 28–50 from caudal extremity; 2 small unstalked adanal papillae generally present at postero-lateral margin of anus. Large pedunculate caudal papillae in 2 rows lateral to anus; 4–5 papillae

present on right side, and 3–5 on left. Spicules equal; asymmetric distally. Right spicule ($n = 10$) 131–154 (144) long; tip blunt, conical, poorly sclerotized. Left spicule ($n = 10$) 131–157 (145); tip sharply pointed

TABLE I. *Comparison of Eulimdana rauschorum* n. sp. with *E. lari* (Yamaguti, 1935) and *Eufilaria* sp. sensu Mawson, 1969.

Host-group:	<i>Eulimdana lari</i>			<i>Eulimdana rauschorum</i>	<i>Eufilaria</i> sp.
	Larinae*	Scolopacinae†	Phalaropodinae‡	Larinae	Larinae§
Male					
Body: length	6.6–7.5 mm	6.7 mm	3.2–4.8 mm	3.5–5.8 mm	
width	440–540	320	204–231	200–269	
Esophagus: length	380–540	280	157–234	354–470	
Nerve ring	—	140	78–114	116–177	
Spicules: length (L)	155–170	130	117–138	131–157	
(R)#	—	110	103–111		
No. caudal papillae (L)	—	2 pair	4	4–5	
(R)¶	—	—	3–4	3–5	
Genital papillae	—	not observed	1, anteromedian	2, posterolateral	
Female					
Body: length	9.8–11.7 mm	10.8 mm	7.1–18.1 mm	7.6–12.3 mm	11 mm
width	370–500	480	234–600	342–490	—
Esophagus: length	300–330	300	195–410	371–520	450
Nerve ring	100–120	—	96–180	122–184	200
Vulva	400–650	640	1.3–3.1 mm	838–1,620	1.1 mm
Anus: position	terminal	terminal	subterminal	subterminal	subterminal
Caudal papillae	—	absent	absent	1–2 pair (variable)	1 pair
Microfilariae: length	84	—	77–91	325–406	390–410

* Belopol'skaia (1952) males; Yamaguti (1935) females.

† Sonin (1966).

‡ Bartlett et al. (1985).

§ Mawson (1969).

|| Distance from anterior extremity.

Length of left (L) and right (R) spicules.

¶ Number of papillae lateral to anus on left (L) and right (R) sides.

with complex sclerotized structure. Phasmids pedunculate, small, indistinct, ventral, subterminal. Alae-like structures on tail absent.

Female: Length ($n = 15$) 7.6–12.3 mm (10.3). Width in cephalic region 140–214; at midbody 342–490; in caudal region 151–255. Nerve ring ($n = 18$) 122–184 (146) from cephalic extremity. Excretory pore not observed. Esophagus ($n = 19$) 371–520 (466) by 29–53 (44) at base. Vulva postesophageal ($n = 20$) 838–1,620 (1,216) from cephalic extremity. Vagina strongly muscular, 720–850 in length. Ovaries paired, opisthodelphic. Uterine limbs convoluted, maximum extent to nerve ring in anterior and to caudal extremity in posterior. Uterus with developing larvae in delicate thin-shelled eggs ($n = 50$) 58–85 (72) by 36–55 (47). Anus patent, ventral, subterminal, 30–70 from caudal extremity. Caudal papillae prominent, lateral, seldom median; 2–3 on right side; 2 on left; occasionally single median, papilla present posterior to anus. Phasmids not observed. Caudal extremity usually with cleft, separating tail into dorsal and ventral lobes. Lateral chords with numerous nuclei.

Larvae: Ensheathed microfilariae ($n = 12$) 325–406 (365) long, numerous in vagina; not observed in blood.

Type specimens: USNM Helm. Coll. No. 78761 holotype (male) and allotype (female) collected on Shortcut Island, 30 December 1982. Paratypes, No. 78762, male and 2 females with same data as holotype and No. 78763, 3 males and 2 females from type host on Limitrophe Island, 28 December 1982, by A. F. Betzel.

Type host: *Larus dominicanus* Lichtenstein. Also

from *Larus novaehollandiae* Stephens (see Mawson, 1969).

Localities: Arthur Harbor, Anvers Island, Antarctica (including Limitrophe Island, Shortcut Island, and Bonaparte Point, ca. lat. 64°46'S; 64°03'W) (type). Also known from the Wauwermans Islands (ca. lat. 64°55'S; 64°00'W) and from Narrung, South Australia (see Mawson, 1969).

Habitat: Subcutaneous connective tissue of the esophageal region.

Etymology: The specific name *rauschorum* is established in honor of Robert L. Rausch and Virginia R. Rausch.

Comparisons: The genus *Eulimdana* was reviewed by Bartlett et al. (1985) and contains 4 valid species from avian hosts: *Eulimdana clava* (Wedl, 1856) (type) from Columbiformes and Passeriformes in the Holarctic, Asia, and Australia; *Eulimdana micropenis* (Travassos, 1926) from *Selenidera maculirostris* (Lichtenstein), a piciform in Brazil; *Eulimdana heimi* (Chabaud, Brygoo and Richard, 1964) from *Coracopsis vasa* (Shaw), a psittaciform in Madagascar; and *E. lari* (Yamaguti, 1935) from Charadriiformes in the Holarctic. Among these, *E. rauschorum* n. sp. resembles *E. heimi* in lacking super- and suboral cuticular inflations (Chabaud et al., 1964; Bartlett et al., 1985) but is most similar to *E. lari* when all characters are considered (Yamaguti, 1935; Belopol'skaia, 1952; Sonin, 1966; Bartlett et al., 1985).

Data comparing *E. rauschorum* and *E. lari* are presented in Table I. It is evident that there is a great

degree of overlap in most measurements. *Eulimdana lari* has a broad host distribution in charadriiforms and there appears to be some degree of host-induced variation associated with specimens in Larinae (Yamaguti, 1935; Belopol'skaia, 1952), Scolopacinae (Sonin, 1966) and Phalaropodinae (Bartlett et al., 1985). This is manifested primarily in total body length, relative position of the vulva in females and possibly in length of the spicules in males. However, specimens of *E. rauschorum* and *E. lari* can be differentiated by a number of other characters.

In specimens of *E. rauschorum*, super- and suboral cuticular inflations on the cephalic extremity are absent and the mouth and cephalic papillae are bordered by a circumoral groove, in contrast to *E. lari*. Among females of *E. rauschorum* there are prominent caudal papillae and a caudal cleft, both absent in *E. lari*. The microfilariae of *E. rauschorum* are also exceptionally large, being 3–4 times the length of those reported for *E. lari*. Males differ in the number and distribution of caudal and genital papillae, and in the structure of the terminal portion and relative length of the spicules. In specimens of *E. rauschorum* there are more caudal papillae, 4–5 to the right and 3–5 to the left of the anus, and a pair of inconspicuous genital papillae at the posterior margin of the anus. In specimens of *E. lari* there are only 4 papillae in the right and 3–4 in the left row, and a single median genital papilla anterior to the anus. The spicules of *E. rauschorum* are similar in length while those of *E. lari* are unequal. The terminal portion of the spicules of *E. rauschorum* also appear more complex than those characteristic of *E. lari*.

Mawson (1969) described a female filarioid nematode, designated *Eufilaria* sp., from *Larus novaehollandiae* in Australia. Measurements of this specimen and those from *E. rauschorum* and *E. lari* are compared in Table I. Bartlett et al. (1985) indicated that this specimen could not be referred to *E. lari*, and the similarity with *E. rauschorum* is evident. The Australian specimen also has large microfilariae and caudal papillae; consequently, it is considered to be conspecific with *E. rauschorum*.

DISCUSSION

Eulimdana rauschorum n. sp. is currently the only avian-filarioid known from larids in Antarctica and the Southern Hemisphere. Filarioids appear to be relatively rare parasites of larids when considering the host-distribution of species in the 15 genera recognized by Anderson and Bain (1976) (Barus et al., 1978; Bartlett and Anderson, 1980). *Eulimdana lari* is the only species that occurs in representatives of most major subfamilies of Charadriiformes including larids.

Morphological similarities and host distribution of *E. rauschorum* and *E. lari* indicate close evolutionary affinities, suggesting these filarioids shared a common ancestor. Southern black-backed gulls were apparently recently derived from the *Larus fuscus* L.–*Larus marinus* L. group

of the North Atlantic and are generally related to the large white-headed gulls of the Northern Hemisphere (Moynihan, 1959; Voous, 1965; Schnell, 1970). Some of these *Larus* spp., including *L. marinus*, are known to be hosts for *E. lari* in the Holarctic. Thus it is probable that *Eulimdana* sp. was a parasite of large *Larus*-gulls prior to their isolation and divergence in the Southern Hemisphere. Cladogenesis resulting in *E. rauschorum* may have accompanied the speciation of *L. dominicanus*. The host and geographic distributions of some platyhelminth parasites in *Larus* spp. in the North Atlantic and *L. dominicanus* in South America and Antarctica support the concept for cospeciation of *Eulimdana* (Szidat, 1964; Stadler, 1975; Cielecka and Zdzitowiecki, 1981; Jarecka and Ostas, 1984; Zdzitowiecki and Szelenbaum-Cielecka, 1984).

Southern black-backed gulls have a broad geographic range in the Southern Ocean, including areas of South America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the Subantarctic and Antarctica (Murphy, 1936; Fordham, 1963; Watson, 1975; Burger and Gochfeld, 1981). This distribution is largely allopatric to that of related *Larus* spp. of the Northern Hemisphere (Harrison, 1983). Consequently, an alternate but unsupported hypothesis for the distribution of *E. rauschorum* suggests colonization of *L. dominicanus*, and subsequent speciation, by *Eulimdana* sp. from other charadriiforms. Phalaropodinae and some Scolopacinae known as hosts for *E. lari*, particularly *Charadrius hiaticula* L., *Calidris minuta* (Leisler), *Phalaropus lobatus* (L.) and *P. tricolor* (Vieillot), are long-range migrants having wintering distributions extending beyond mid-latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere (Johnsgard, 1981; Cramp and Simmons, 1983). Thus there exists a potential for transfer of avian-filarioids from migratory charadriiforms to resident populations of larids, scolopacids and other avian groups that have similar habitat requirements in South America, Africa and Australia.

The broad geographic distribution of *E. rauschorum* in the Southern Hemisphere is indicated by its occurrence in *L. novaehollandiae* in Australia. *Larus novaehollandiae* and *L. dominicanus* are sympatric in some portions of their ranges in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa (Fordham, 1963; Pizzey and Doyle, 1980; Burger and Gochfeld, 1981). However, these species of gulls are not closely related, as Moynihan (1959) included *L. novaehollandiae* with the masked gulls of the Southern Hemisphere

and *L. dominicanus* with the large white-headed gulls of the Northern Hemisphere. These relationships suggest that *E. rauschorum* colonized *L. novaehollandiae* when the 2 larids became sympatric. Such an association may be a further indication of the importance of community structure in determining the distributions of avian filarioids (see Bartlett and Anderson, 1980; Bartlett et al., 1985).

The extensive nature of the collections at Palmer, Antarctica (Hoberg, 1983) and the occurrence of *E. rauschorum* only in adult *L. dominicanus* indicates that infections probably were not acquired on the breeding grounds. Filariaids were not found as parasites of other charadriiforms, including *Catharacta lonnbergi*, *C. macormicki*, *S. vittata*, and *Chionis alba*, sympatric with *L. dominicanus* in the region near Anvers Island. Either *E. rauschorum* does not have a broad host distribution, or the cycle of this filarioid cannot be completed in Antarctica due to harsh environmental conditions and lack of suitable vectors.

Eulimdana rauschorum could represent a component of a wintering ground parasite fauna. Migratory movements of *L. dominicanus* have not been well documented (Murphy, 1936; Watson et al., 1971; Parmelee et al., 1977; Bernstein, 1983), but some evidence indicates that young of the year birds disperse to South America (Bernstein, 1983). Juveniles and adults are known to form separate groups prior to autumn migration, but the extent and destination of any northward movements are unknown. Adult gulls are often sedentary in winter, and may be present in some areas during periods of ice-free water (Parmelee et al., 1977; Bernstein, 1983). Thus, if transmission of *E. rauschorum* occurs away from breeding colonies (possibly in South America) it may serve as a useful indicator of wintering areas for particular populations of southern black-backed gulls from the western Antarctic.

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